

Fact Sheet: Childhood Influenza

- Childhood deaths to influenza are extremely low. There have been 0 -3 deaths for children under 5 in Western Australia for 4 decades. ¹
- National deaths to influenza for children under 5 have also been 0 – 3 since 1977. ¹
- The consequence of influenza in children /adults is mainly absenteeism from school and work. ²
- The risk of complications and death from influenza is greatest in people over 65 years and there is an increased risk of complications from influenza in children under 2. ³
- The attack rates for influenza are consistently high in children during annual outbreaks. But even at 20-30% the majority of children make a full recovery and discomfort is the main symptom of illness. ⁴
- A survey of Pediatricians in the US showed 43% of doctors actively opposed the universal vaccination of children and 27% were unsure. 50% of doctors were concerned about the safety of the inactivated vaccine. ⁴
- Most children with complications to flu are not hospitalized. ⁴
- Infants under 3 years and children with underlying medical problems are at highest risk of being hospitalized. ⁴
- Infants under 6 months have the highest risk of hospitalization – but the inactivated vaccine is only licensed for use in children 6 months and over. ⁴
- Today’s children receive up to 12 vaccines before 12 months of age. ⁵
- There are cumulative, synergistic and latent effects from the chemicals in vaccines. Chemicals include mercury and aluminium adjuvant (neurotoxins), antibiotics and preservatives – known to cause allergies and anaphylaxis. ⁶
- The efficacy of inactivated vaccine in children under 2 was found to be similar to placebo – not effective at all. ²
- It is also stated in the Cochrane Systematic Review that childhood influenza vaccines are not good at preventing influenza-like illness in children over 2. ²
- Chronic illness in children has increased as the number of vaccines used in children has increased. ⁵
- No long-term health studies have investigated the link between vaccines and chronic illness in children. ⁵
- A fear campaign based on anecdotal evidence was used to encourage WA parents to vaccinate their children in 2008/9. ⁷
- Coercive vaccination is unethical if the government cannot prove vaccines do not cause chronic illness in children. The Precautionary Principle must be applied.

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